Christ-Centered Relationships

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Your answers should be based on the Topic 6 Resources. Answer each of the following questions, in at least one paragraph.

1. Describe three to five attributes that characterize self-centered relationships that are not focused on Christ.

Self-centered relationships often carry the weight of isolation, unmet expectations, betrayal, and deep emotional confusion. Being alone can feel like a dreadful sentence, especially when that loneliness isn't chosen but forced by abandonment, misjudgment, or manipulation. In my life, I've experienced the ache of that weight. I think of my wife—how I needed her, how I still do. And yet, I believe she has been pulled away by influences that don't reflect the love of Christ, possibly misled by voices that claimed faith but lived otherwise. I am not perfect, but I stood for truth, for family, for what was right. Our conversations used to center around logic, personal freedom, truth, and love. I often spoke what turned out to be true. Still, I lost her. Not because I failed in my love, but because the world around us cracked and shifted under us.

In self-centered relationships, freedom can be weaponized. What should be freedom of choice becomes emotional withdrawal or selfish independence. Conversations that once brought clarity became arguments fueled by fear, pride, or false promises. My logic often aligned more clearly with reason and compassion, but I was dismissed. And I paid the cost. The cost was everything. My marriage, my home, my sense of belonging. The community around me, those who should have embraced me, faltered. They preached love, but when tested, they fell flat. This world—the one that speaks of tolerance and grace—has been cold. Still, I don't curse them. I restrain myself. I remind myself of who I am. Knowing full well who I have been

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- Twinkle, twinkle, little me—I'm still here, just wait and see.

2. Describe three to five attributes that characterize Christ-centered relationships. Briefly describe how they are different than self-centered relationships.

Christ-centered relationships are anchored in humility, forgiveness, truth, and the long-haul kind of love that doesn't vanish in storms. They are relationships that reflect God’s nature: creative, healing, honest, and eternal. I have found fragments of that truth through friendships that emerged in hard times. Donavan, Evan, and Barron became more than friends—they became faith-brothers. We share a love of art, of excellence, of God. We are driven not just to succeed but to create meaning, to be refined in fire, not destroyed by it. These friendships do not ask, "What can I get from you?" but rather, "How can we grow together?"

Christ-centered relationships make room for brokenness without shaming it. They rebuke when needed, but gently. They protect your name behind your back. They remind you of who you are when you forget. When I met Donavan in 2020, having fled Ohio due to vaccine mandates, I was rebuilding from nothing. And yet through these men and through God, I began to see the blueprint for something larger: Tyāga—a cultural rebirth, a movement rooted in faith, freedom, and creative resurrection.

3. Explain how following Christ's vision of human value and human dignity would transform your current relationships and interactions with others in the world.

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Following Christ’s vision forces me to see even those who hurt me as people with intrinsic value. It challenges my pride and replaces my bitterness with clarity. Even now, after being left by someone I loved more than words can describe, I don’t give up on her. I plead with heaven, not just for reconciliation, but for revelation. That she sees herself again, that she remembers what we stood for. Christ reminds me that I am not defined by her leaving, nor by the judgments of this world. I am defined by the Cross, by grace, by resilience. I worked HVAC with Conditioned Air during a strange and painful chapter in Florida. I was rebuilding, in exile. That job, that time, that sweat taught me something: God can turn exile into preparation. Now, I am leveling up. I have founded Tyāga, I am building a publishing platform, I am shaping a Web3 cultural hum—and it is all rooted in the dignity that Christ gives. Not the world.

4. Provide three to five examples, using both challenges and benefits of living out Christ's vision in your personal relationships.

 Challenge: Choosing to forgive a friend who deeply hurt me, even when my emotions tell me to hold a grudge.
Benefit: Experiencing healing and restoration in the relationship through grace.

 Challenge: Being honest in communication, rather than hiding my real feelings to avoid conflict.
Benefit: Developing deeper trust and authenticity.

 Challenge: Serving family members when I feel tired or unappreciated.
Benefit: Reflecting Christ’s love and deepening bonds over time.

Losing my wife is the most painful example. The challenge was not just the loss but the betrayal, the silence, the unresolved questions. And yet, the benefit has been finding God in the ashes. He has

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taught me to forgive her daily, to release her to His will, not mine. Another challenge has been seeing my so-called Christian community fail—churches, leaders, peers. When it counted, many became silent or cruel. Yet this pain made room for true friendships. Men like Evan and Donavan showed up. The challenge of being misunderstood constantly still stings, but it has trained me in grace. Trusting again is hard. But it’s worth it. I am not alone. The Spirit walks with me.

5. Provide three to five examples, using both challenges and benefits of living out Christ's vision in your social relationships.

Speaking truth in a hypocritical world is a challenge. I don’t flatter culture. I stand against it when it misrepresents Christ. But the benefit is this: people are listening. And philosophy.. yeah but people listen, Tyāga is Trademark but it’s resonating. Launching a Web3 label rooted in redemptive creativity while others chase trends is hard. But I am not called to trends. I’m called to transformation. My past in management, marketing, and canvassing now fuels something higher. A righteous rebuild. My friend Dan makes me feel like I’m crawling around sometimes or seeking opulent life Reconciling with friends and family who hurt me has not been easy, I consider my wife a death. Stats all I’ll say abot it. Between us and God. A broken fragment and a part of my soul. Forever. Plainly. I’m still now. I choose peace. I speak truth in love. I laugh. I remember. And I remind myself often that even Jesus was rejected. He was too.

References:

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